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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1957



KINGSBRIDGE
J. R. GILL AND SON LTD.

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957

Medical Officer of Health: DR. R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR. W. H. COWPER, M.B.,
B.CH., B.A.O.
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector; MR. L. J. HILL,
A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1957.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,120.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to the Rate Book—989

Number of unoccupied houses—17.

Rateable Value—£44,886.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£172.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	54	26	28
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
		54	26	28

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 17.3.

Still Births ... — — 1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births): 17.62.

Deaths ... 30 21 19

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 9.61.

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births)		
*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil		Nil	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :				3
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	55.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				55.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	—	—
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ...	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	—	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	3	2
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	4	3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—
20. Other Heart Diseases	3	—
21. Other Circulatory Disease	1	2
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	—
24. Bronchitis	—	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases ...	2	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34. All other Accidents	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	21	19

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

One full-time Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service provided a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, on 3rd June 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES. There has recently been published by Devon County a handbook giving details of the various services provided in the County.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles ...	9	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	1	1	—
	25	1	—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1957

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY (Moorland Supply) from South Devon Water Board.

The supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The Avon Dam has recently been completed, forming a reservoir which it is hoped will provide an adequate reserve of water if we ever have a dry summer.

During the past year, 71 samples of Moorland Water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows: Grade 1—68; Grade 2—3.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No major works have been carried out during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The system of collection and disposal remains as in previous years. The system is satisfactory and the only comment of interest is that the bulk is greatly increasing while the weight of refuse tipped is probably static.

HOUSING. The first contract for Old Persons Dwellings was started in May 1957, and while none were completed at the end of the year, I am advised that satisfactory progress was being made on them. A pleasing feature was the steps taken to ensure, as far as practicable, that the flats would be soundproof.

At the end of the year the Council owned 177 houses and 40 flats as the previous year.

Some progress was made on Slum Clearance and the first houses were considered by the Council and no decision arrived at before the end of the year. Concurrently with this, a scheme was in hand to build houses solely for the occupation of families displaced by Slum Clearance.

FOOD STUFFS CONDEMNED. 460 tins various, 330 lbs. dried currants, 4 jars various, 1 doz. frozen geese, 5 pkts. cheese, 8 doz. pies, 24 lbs. bacon, 1 loaf bread.

FOOD

1. The number of types of food premises in the area are as follows :

Greengrocer, 5; Grocer, 14; Butcher,; 5; Restaurants, 6

Wet Fish Shops, 1; Fried Fish Shops, 2; Baker, 4.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

2. The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :

Manufacture of Icecream	...	...	...	1
Storage of Icecream for sale	..	...	...	20
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.				4
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954		...		3

3. The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 32. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town is good.

4. THE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specializing in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

5. It was not necessary during the year for any special examination of a stock or consignment of food to be undertaken.

6. It is the policy to discourage the manufacture of ice-cream and, in fact, only one producer carries on business in the town. This is done in well-equipped modern premises with modern equipment in good condition. The normal shop or business selling icecream, sells only prepacked icecream from one or other of the major well-known manufacturers.

7. All occupiers of premises dealing in food should now be conforming to the Food Hygiene Regulations. It is only by constant education that conditions can be improved. I feel that the public can be a great help in this matter. If they complain to the proprietors or managers of shops when they see unsatisfactory practices, it will help to ensure that they are not repeated.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows			Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	177					1043		
Number inspected	...	152				891		
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>								
Whole carcases condemned						1		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		5				8		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease etc	...	...	3.22%			1.01%		
Tuberculosis only :					NIL			
Cysticercosis					NIL			

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	27
(b) alleging housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	206
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	...	8
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	180
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	...	5
Informal letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	11
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions, including new Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	63
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	57

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (3)	Inspect'ns (4)	Number of Written Occupiers Notices Prosec'd	
			(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	21	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	47	25	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

August, 1958.

Medical Officer of Health.

